

As we closed out the 106th Congress, many called attention to the remarkable work done by the assistant majority leader—then assistant Democratic leader—in the last Congress. He has become an invaluable asset. His leadership, and the strength of his day-to-day involvement on the Senate floor, in concert with our Republican colleagues, is so deeply appreciated.

I share his optimism and his determination to make this a productive Congress. I look forward, in the most heartfelt way, to working with him as we face the challenges of the new Congress.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. REED). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECESS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, on behalf of the majority leader, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess until 3:15 p.m. today.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 2:01 p.m., recessed until 3:16 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer [Mr. AKAKA].

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, in his capacity as a Senator from Hawaii, suggests the absence of a quorum.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SCOOP JACKSON'S DESK

Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, today we saw new Members of the Senate sworn in. It was a pleasure to see a dear personal friend, MARIA CANTWELL from the great State of Washington, sworn in as that State's junior Senator.

When I was visiting with her in the fall, during the maximum climactic days of her campaign, we were talking about the Senate and great Senators from the State of Washington, and the name of Henry "Scoop" Jackson came up. He has been one of my heroes. As a matter of fact, last year I was given the Scoop Jackson Award, and it was a great honor for me to receive it.

Scoop Jackson was, of course, known for his stance for a strong military, a strong defense, and also a strong commitment to positive and progressive social policies. This made him a great statesman from the State of Washington.

When Maria and I discussed this, I said: It is interesting; when I came to the Senate 4 years ago, I wound up with Scoop Jackson's desk. As a matter of fact, as my colleagues know, it is a tradition, after one has served here a while, that they carve their name in the desk when they leave.

This honored desk has Scoop Jackson's name carved in it. It is my pleasure today to yield to the freshman Senator from the great State of Washington and, in the great tradition of Scoop Jackson, to yield to her this desk which will be transferred to her shortly. I wish her the very best and a long, lively term in the Senate, particularly in the tradition of Scoop Jackson.

I welcome Senator CANTWELL and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from the State of Washington is recognized.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I thank my good friend, Senator CLELAND of Georgia, for the honor and this gift of a very humble beginning for me in the Senate, to have the opportunity not only to work with him and my new colleagues but to be the recipient of such a warm welcome.

Senator Jackson was obviously a landmark in our Capitol, as well as his years of dedication in our State. Senator Jackson arrived here in January of 1941—he was 28 years old—and started to represent the State of Washington, the Second Congressional District, and then later, for 31 years, served in the U.S. Senate.

He was a great leader on foreign policy, on human rights, on arms control, and on the importance of our environment, with the Jackson-Vanik amendment, with the National Environmental Protection Act, and a variety of other landmark environmental policies that were so important to the State of Washington but also to this country.

It is an honor to accept this gift from Senator CLELAND of the desk of Senator Scoop Jackson, a Senator who was known as one who worked across the aisle in a bipartisan fashion. In fact, one observer of public policy, George Will, called him one of the "finest public servants I have known, who mastered the delicate balance of democracy."

Again, I thank the Senator from Georgia for this very kind gift and outreach on my very first day in the Senate in the hope that I will carry on the Northwest tradition that has been so important to our State.

Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BAYH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. LINCOLN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ROBERT BOYER

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I rise to recognize the service and career of Mr. Robert Boyer, a member of the senior executive service, upon his retirement after 33 years of honorable and distinguished service. Throughout his career, he has epitomized the Navy core values of honor, courage, and commitment and has displayed an exceptional ability to advance the Navy's facilities requirements within the Department of Defense and the Congress. I commend him for a superb career of service to the Navy, our great Nation, and my home state of South Carolina.

Mr. Boyer received the 2000 Presidential Rank of Meritorious Executive for sustained superior performance, leadership and management. He has a distinguished reputation as one of the government's leaders in strategic acquisition, business innovations, and contract initiatives. As the lead senior civilian with the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Mr. Boyer is a visionary, directly responsible for the implementation of new acquisition strategies and innovative operations and organization changes that serve Navy operating forces, senior leaders of industry, and other customers worldwide. As the Executive Director of Acquisition during the past three years, Mr. Boyer established a creative and ground-breaking an acquisition program copied both within and outside the federal government. The global scope of his responsibilities and the depth, breadth and sheer quantity of contractual actions under Mr. Boyer's purview are staggering. While Mr. Boyer continues to champion innovation and initiative within the entire Command, he continually exceeds the execution and performance goals of his Acquisition program. His loyalty and integrity are unequaled, as is the respect that he has earned from his workforce. His combination of superior talent, leadership acumen and genuine love of his work make him a gifted executive.

Mr. Boyer's acquisition innovations have changed construction and service contracting ashore and set new standards within the Department of Defense for programs such as the Public-Private-Venture for the Family Housing and Utility product lines. He has made dramatic operational improvements, realigning scarce resources to acquire the best possible value for the Navy. We widely acclaim his innovative approaches within the Navy and most recently, focused senior leaders on his acquisition innovations.

From December 1991 to May 1996, Mr. Boyer was the Senior Procurement Executive for the Federal Management Agency. In this capacity he directed a nationwide contract, grant, and cooperative agreement program in support of the Agency's all hazard mission. His duties included direct support to the multibillion dollar state and local municipality efforts to improve their disaster mitigation programs, response, and recovery efforts. From 1971